

9-11-1864

Letter: W.E. Johnson to W.E. Johnson, Sr., September 11, 1864

W. E. Johnson
Confederate States Army

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Morris Island Sept 11th 1864

My dear Father

I received a letter from you of July 23rd at Fort Delaware and replied to it on the 24th informing you that I expected to be sent to this place with six hundred other Confederate Officers. We be placed under the fire of our batteries in retaliation for a like number of Federal Officers exposed to fire in Charleston. we were 18 days on board a steamer between decks & suffered very much from heat & thirst & very short rations of Cracker & salt meat. we lay 12 days in Port Royal then went off this boat you can imagine the suffering that would necessarily come from the great heat & crowded condition of the boat. we are now in a pen enclosing about 2 acres of ^{SAND} ~~sand~~ bed in small tents immediately on the rear of the Federal batteries. some fragments of shell from our batteries have fallen in the pen but nobody was hurt. I do not think the danger is very great. when the opposing batteries are shelling each other it is a very & very interesting sight & never to be forgotten. it is astonishing to what a great distance & with what remarkable accuracy the immense shell can be thrown. we are so near one of the Federal batteries that the shock from the explosion of the passing of the shell over our heads is very unpleasant & oft in presents one sleeping at night but I suppose we will soon become accustomed to it. We are here for retaliation & are fed exactly as the Federal Officers are said to be fed in Charleston that is on short rations of salt meat & crackers but are allowed to buy a few articles of food from the sutler such as sugar coffee Tobacco &c. I can not get along without money & beg that you will at once get some Federal currency or Gold at any price & send it to me. I will be allowed to receive it & buy articles of food clothing or luxuries that are sent from our lines. if necessary get either Post or some one to bring the money & a box of food I write to Ann for to Charleston & put it in the hands of some one who will forward it by first Flag of Trade Boat. which passes about once a week or ten days. Tell Ann if she has a suit of clothes (not too fine) made up to send them in the box. also a small quantity of Blue Mass Quinine & Opium. Money is the thing I need greatly & I beg that if it can be possibly I would you will send at once

I left St W P Bonney at Fort Delaware & well. Lynch Deas was at the Old Capital Prison
D.C. in May I do not know whether he was wounded or not, I tried to learn where
J L Boykin was but was unable to do so. E B Custer was at Fort Delaware
& well. I find this imprisonment very irksome & miserable. I am very well now
but I continue so can bear the confinement as well as any one. There are some gentle
men here who have been in prison two years & more since the battle of Gettysburg.
we can hear nothing of what is going on in the outside world & I have asked Gen.
to send me an occasional News Paper. Money is the all important matter with
me now. I hope you will write to me occasionally as I can receive as many letters
as we sent me. I understand Mr W D Stamp is supposed to send a letter to this prison
I send much love to mother

Yours Affectionate Son
W E Johnson Jr

Address me "Prisoner of War, Morris Island" Tell Gen not to wait for me to
love but to send them at regular intervals

W E Johnson
Camden
S.C.

